

SYSTEM USE

SYSTEM USE BETWEEN APRIL 1999 AND APRIL 2000

The number of platforms seen each day (see Table 1) increased over the year from 3858 to 4121 platforms, i.e. a 7 % increase. This increase is smaller than last year (18%). The yearly increase average over the last three years remained 14% while it was 10 % over the last six years.

The number of platforms whose data were sent through the GTS increased to around 900. For each country, the graph gives the total number of Argos drifting buoys and the number of drifting buoys whose data are sent onto the GTS by the end of April 2000.

Categories of platforms

Figure 1 shows the number of PTT's by type. This number is rather stable for moored buoys and mobiles and increasing slightly for drifting buoys, fixed stations or animals. It continues to increase very significantly for the fishing category due to the implementation of fishing vessel monitoring systems in several countries (USA, Russia, Europe, etc.)

Figure 2 shows the increase in PTT's over the last thirteen years. The lower curve is the average number of PTT's which are seen each day. The upper curve is the total number of PTT's which are seen at least once during a month. The difference between these two curves has increased regularly since 1988 from 480 to more than 3400 in 2000. The increase was due to the more frequent use of PTT's transmitting only part of the time in the system. The ratio which has reached 2.0 last year seems now to keep stable.

Figure 3 shows the increase of PTT's seen daily over the last nineteen years. The average increase is 16% per year.

Geographical distribution of platforms :

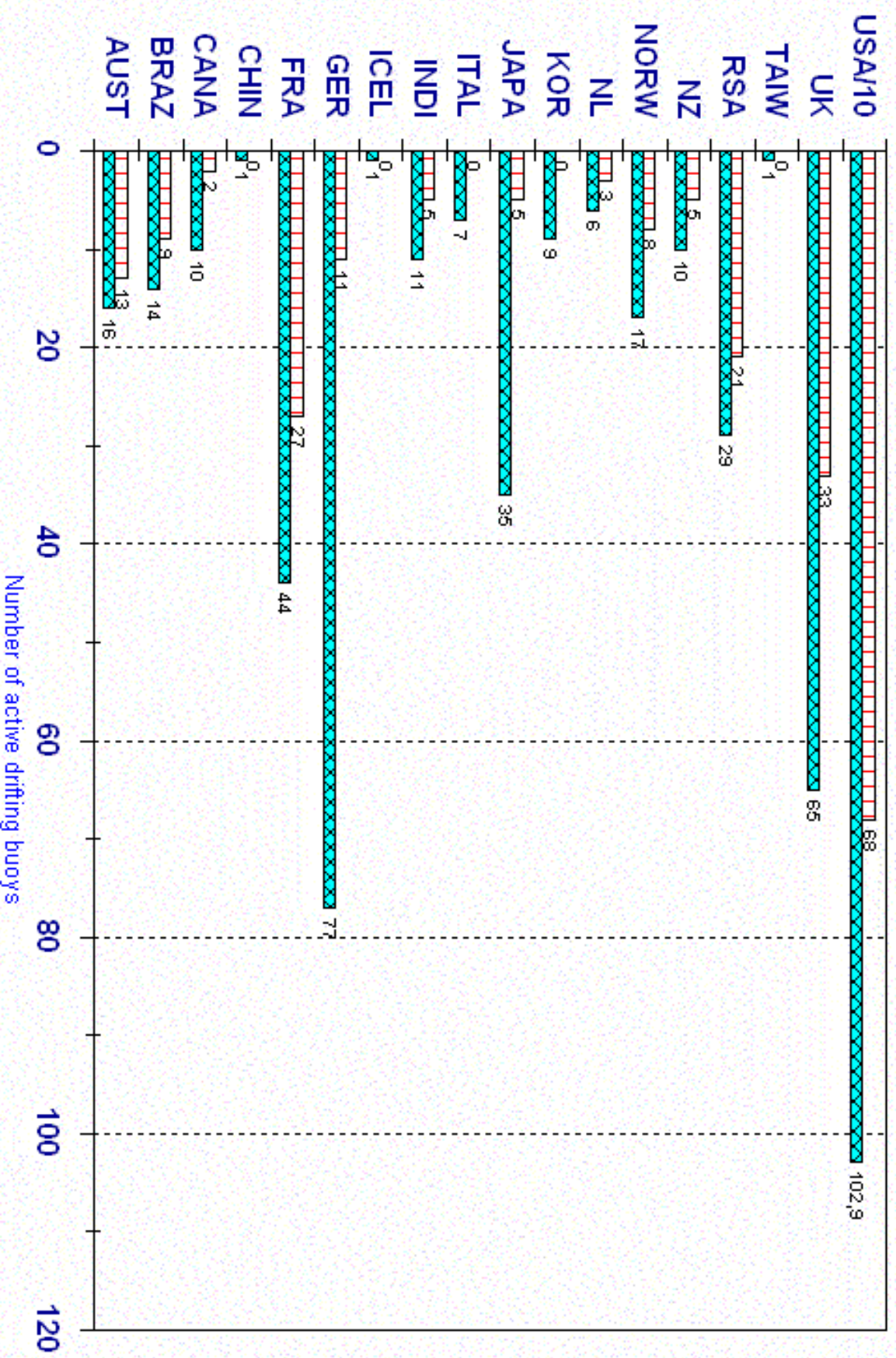
Figure 4 shows the system duty coefficient. The average system occupation rate is increasing regularly each year and is now around 25%. The maximum system occupation rate is observed in South America and Europe with about 85%. Note that these figures are based on the capacity of the Argos 1 equipment and consequently the calculated coefficients are higher than the real ones because of the capacity of the Argos 2 instrument on NOAA K. The chart was drawn by using data received during one day only (April 19, 2000).

Figure 5 shows the ground distribution of active platforms seen between January 1st and February 20, 2000. For each platform, only the last known position is used to draw the chart.

Table 1 : 1999-2000 system use

Operating PTTs	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
	1999									2000				
Total number	3858	3847	3856	3854	3724	3695	3980	3922	3926	3747	3800	4012	4121	4224
Collection only	672	665	660	650	640	642	648	668	670	677	686	672	667	675
Location	3186	3182	3196	3204	3084	3052	3334	3255	3257	3071	3114	3340	3454	3550
Drifting buoys	1290	1288	1290	1316	1300	1367	1434	1424	1407	1359	1359	1367	1375	1416
Moored buoys	314	327	326	334	337	328	328	324	308	299	305	307	312	313
Fishing	926	873	867	775	621	606	775	768	812	713	701	859	906	996
Fixed stations	622	621	615	605	599	602	605	630	638	641	651	634	631	631
Animals	413	448	422	429	458	426	453	417	426	423	450	495	527	532
Mobiles	191	189	209	240	267	224	282	246	224	215	239	235	241	232
Miscellaneous	102	101	127	155	142	142	103	113	111	97	95	115	129	104
DRIFTER on GTS	812	800	805	819	826	911	879	902	909	908	928	905	919	945
SHIP on GTS	19	15	19	17	15	20	25	23	23	25	23	20	24	19

Buoys and those on GTS by country 14 day period ending 05/09/00



Total: 1382 buoys, 822 on GTS (i.e. 59.5%)

 Buoys  GTS

Figure 1 : Type of Platforms

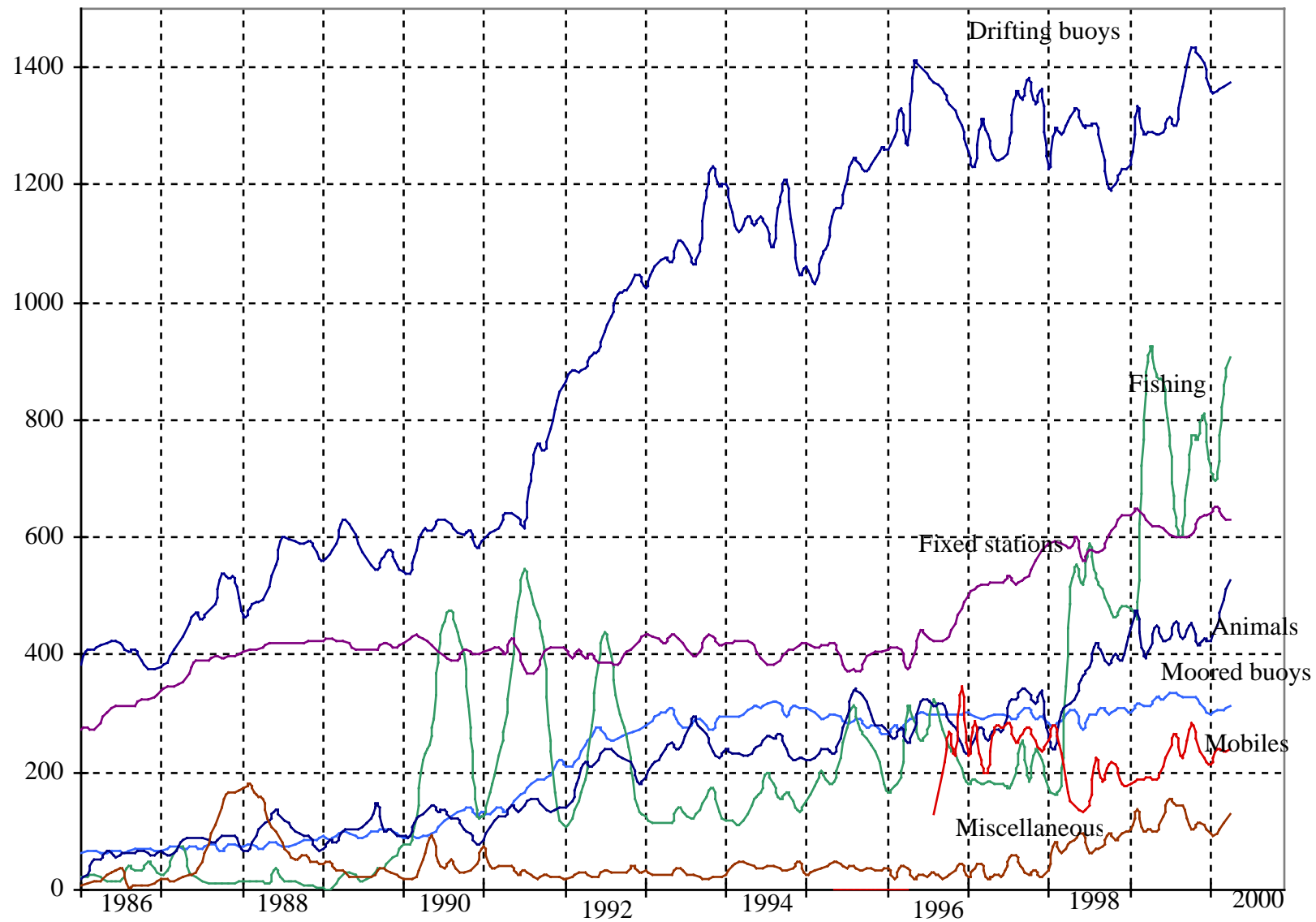


Figure 2 : Difference between PttS....

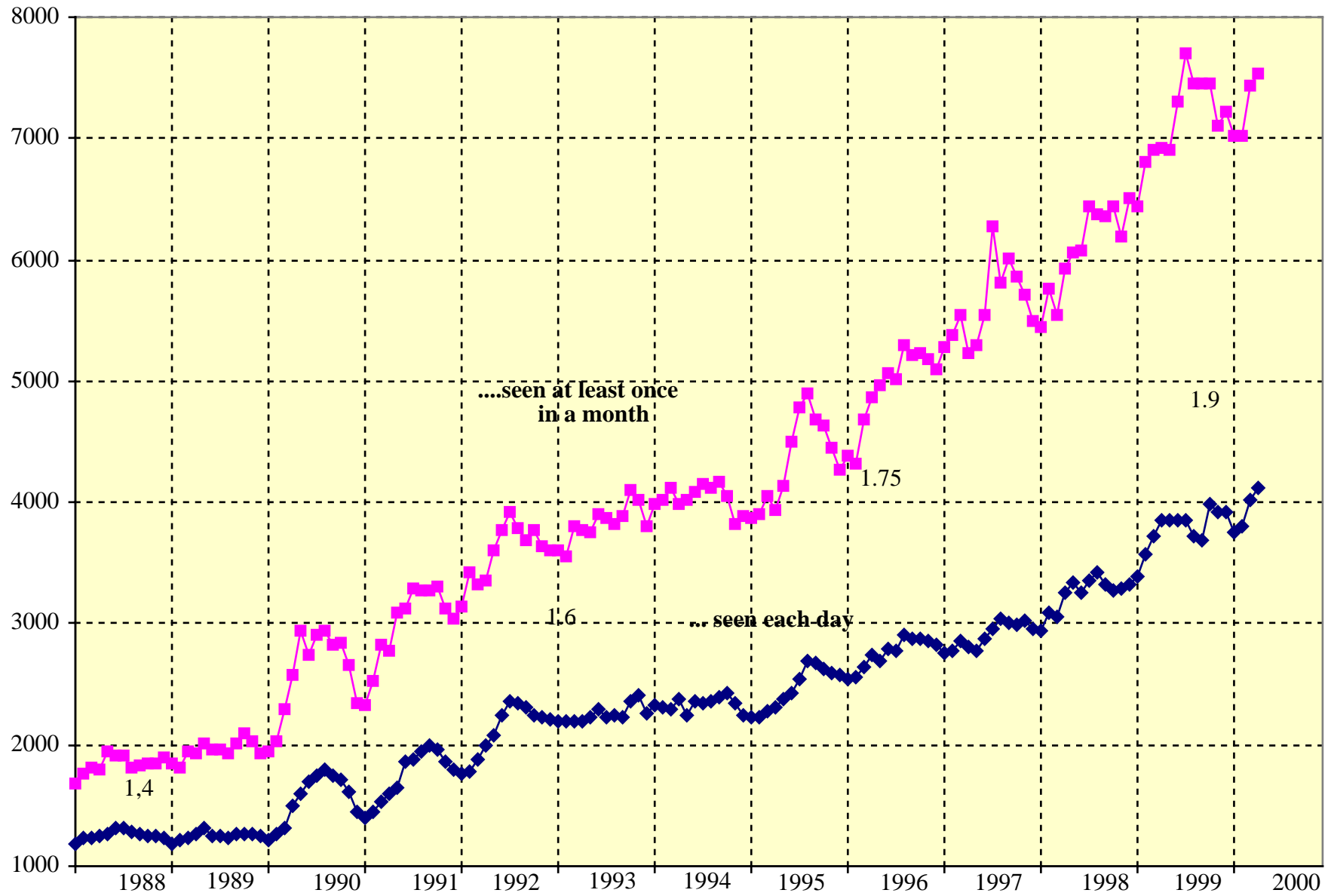


Figure 3 : Number of platforms seen daily

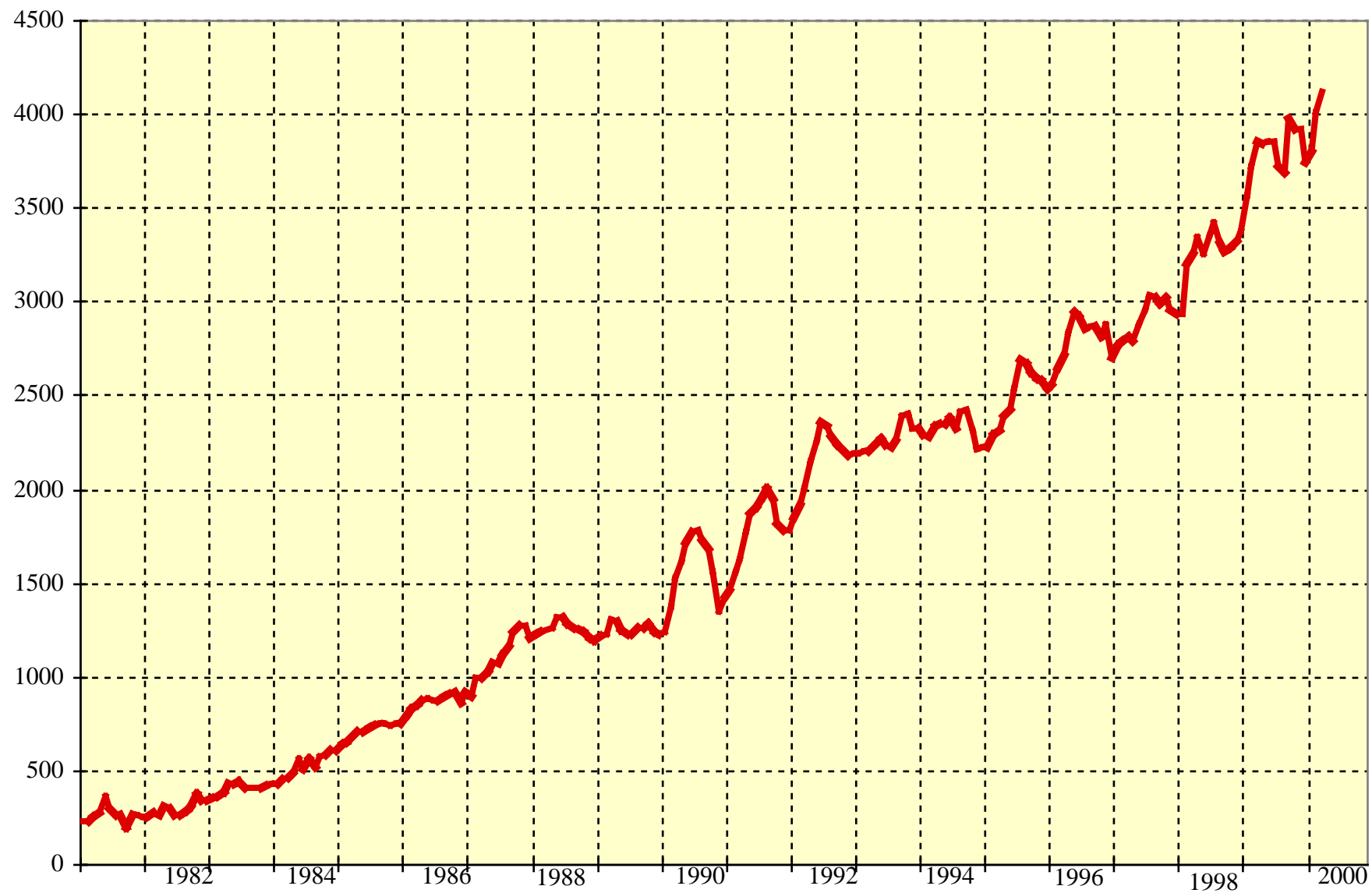


Figure 4 : System duty coefficient

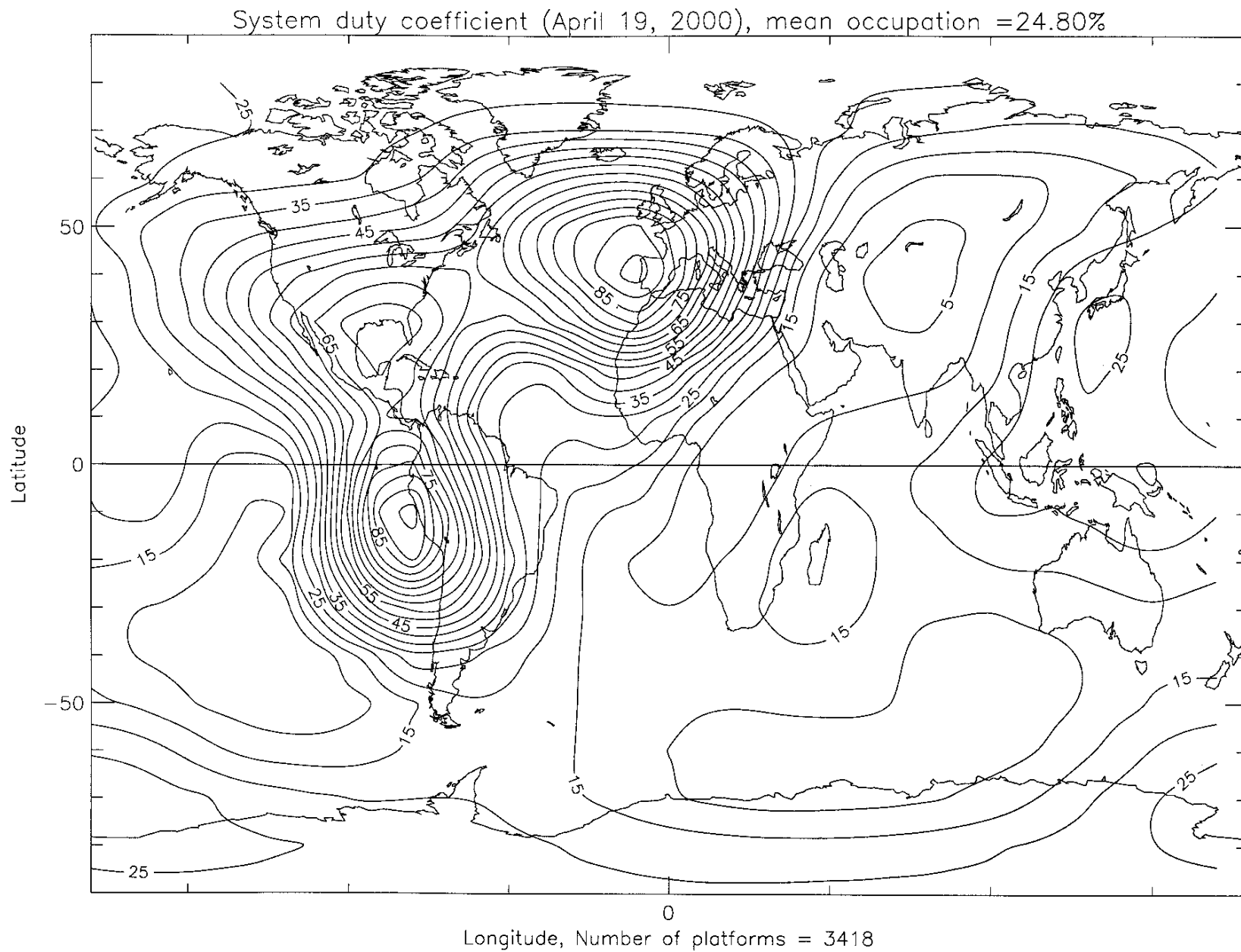


Figure 5 : Ground distribution of operating platforms

